AMERICAN LEGION MEDALS

ORE H. VACKETTA

TAMS JOURNAL

Official Organ of the Token and Medal Society

NATIONAL CONVENTION and ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION

American Legion Medals

by Ore H. Vacketta, TAM 2076

The American Legion, born in the aftermath of World War I to promote pride and patriotism among United States verterans of that conflict, has in this United States Bicentennial year written an admirable history of dedication to those ideals through three more wars and the intervening periods of peace.

Asked by Army headquarters for suggestions on how to instill and maintain troop morale, a group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France is credited with laying the groundwork for the Legion. One, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. The group formed a temporary committee in February, 1919, and selected several hundred officers as a nucleus of the organization.

At the first organizational meeting in March, 1919, in Paris, about 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended. They adopted a temporary constitution and the name, The American Legion.

A second caucus was held in May of that year in St. Louis, where the constitution was finalized and plans made for a permanent organization. Temporary headquarters were set up in New York City, and relief, employment and Americanization programs were instituted. Congress granted a national charter to the Legion in September, 1919.

Aims of the organization are the advancement of veterans' interests, continuance of friendships formed in military service, and the overseeing of care and welfare for disabled veterans. The Legion promotes the American way of life at local, state and national levels and sponsors community projects and educational and charitable programs. It stands as a militant foe of Communism, fascism and all forms of totalitarianism. At the close of World War II, the Legion helped formulate the GI Bill of Rights and pushed for its adoption by Congress.

Until 1942, American Legion membership was restricted to servicemen and nurses who had served on active duty in World War I. In that first full year of World War II, the Legion amended its charter to include veterans of that conflict. Korean veterans became eligible in 1950, Vietnam War veterans in 1966. Today, the organization has more than 2.6 million members organized into 58 departments and more than 16,000 local posts.

Legend

1ST NOTATION/METAL OR COMPOSITION OF BADGE.

A - Aluminum; B - Brass; Bz - Bronze; ABz - Antique Bronze; C - Copper; F - Fiber; P - Plastic; WM - White Metal

2ND NOTATION/SIZE IN MILLIMETERS.

Measured from widest points horizontally and vertically.

3RD NOTATION/MANUFACTURER.

Bastion Bros. Co., Rochester, N.Y. - B.B.;
DC, N.Y. - DC;
F.J. Nagie Co. Chicago Ill. - FJN;
Green Duck Co. Chicago, Ill. - GD.;
Jack Kantor, New York - J.K.;
L.G. Balfour Co., Attleboro, Mass. - L.G.B.;
L.J. Imber Co., Chicago, Ill. - L.J.I.;
Metal Arts Co., Rochester, N.Y. - M.A.;
Robbins Co., Attleboro, Mass. - R;
Whitehead & Hoag, Neward, N.J. - W.H.;

4TH NOTATION/RIBBON COLORS.

Both sides into middle.
Nat'l — Green Gold, Dark Blue/Blue/Gold/Red/Dark Blue;
R - Red — W - White — B - Blue

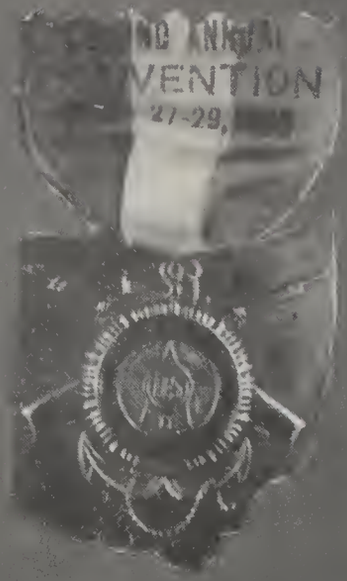
5TH NOTATION - Enameling Color

EXAMPLE

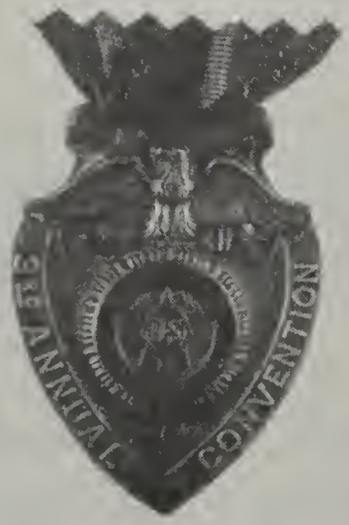
ABz, 24x30, W.H., RWB, B

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

NC1 • 19
Minneapolis, Minn.
1919-1920
Commander: Franklin D'Olier, Pennsylvania
Obv: Emblem
Rev: Blank
ABz, 32x35, W.H., RWB, Blue Enamel



NC2 • 20
Cleveland, Ohio
1920-1921
Commander: Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr., Ohio
Obv: Emblem (Over crossed rifles & anchor)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 33x36, W.H., RWB, B



NC3 • 21
Kansas City, Mo.
1921-1922
Commander: Hanford MacNider, Iowa
Obv: 1921 / (EAGLE) / (Emblem) / 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
Rev: Blank
ABz, 32x44, W.H., Nat'l, B,

NC4 • 22
New Orleans, La.
1922-1923
Commander: Alvin M. Owsley, Texas
Obv: (Eagle) / (Emblem)
Rev: Blank
ABz, W.H., Nat'l, B

NC5 • 23
San Francisco, California
1923-1924
Commander: John R. Quinn, California
Obv: (Emblem) / SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF / 1923
Rev: Blank
ABz, 42x42, W.H., Nat'l, B

NC6 • 24
St. Paul, Minn.
1924-1925
Commander: James A. Drain, Washington
Obv: ST. PAUL, MINN / (Emblem) / 1924 / 6TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
Rev: Blank
ABz, 33x45, Ukn., Nat'l, None

NC7 • 25

Omaha, Neb.
1925-1926
Commander: John R. McQuigg, Ohio

Obv: (Wagon pulled by Oxen) / (Emblem) (With USA Map - OMAHA / heart) / 7TH ANNUAL CONVENTION / OMAHA 1925
Rev: Blank
ABz, 50x50, W.H., Nat'l, None

NC8 • 26

Philadelphia, Pa.
1926-1927
Commander: Howard P. Savage, Illinois

Obv: PHILADELPHIA / (Emblem) / EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION 1926
Rev: Blank
C, 22x31, BB, Nat'l, B

NC9 • 27

Paris, France
1927-1928
Commander: Edward E. Spafford, New York

Obv: (Eagle) / 1917-1927 / (Shields Emblem Shield) / FRANCE
Rev: NATIONAL / CONVENTION / 1927 / (Arch de TRIUMPHE)
ABz, 32x44, W.H., RWB, RWB Enamel on Shields

NC10 • 28

San Antonio, Tex.
1928-1929
Commander: Paul V. McNutt, Indiana

Obv: (Emblem)
Rev: 1928 / TENTH / NATIONAL / CONVENTION / (Alamo) / SAN ANTONIO
ABz, 31x54, R, RWB, White Enamel Star RWB Shield-B

NC11 • 29

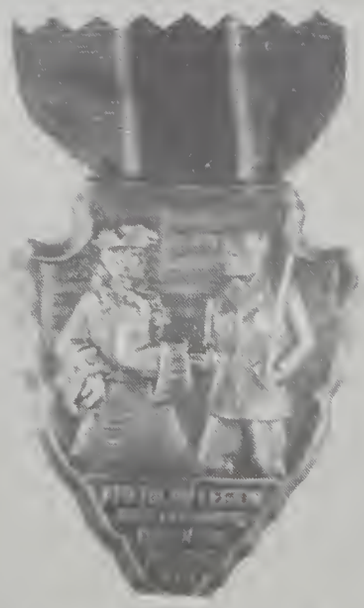
Louisville, Ky.
1929-1930
Commander: O.L. Bodenhammer, Arkansas

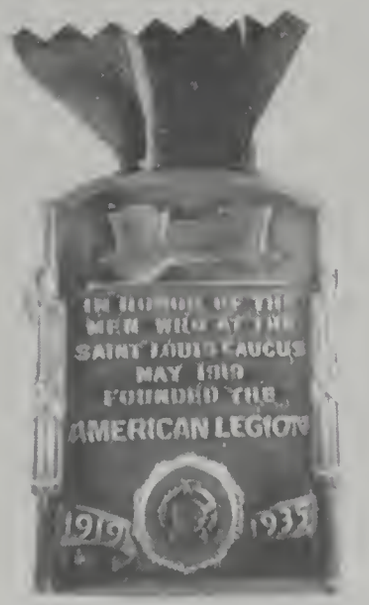
Obv: 1929 / (Emblem) / 11TH NAT'L CONVENTION / LOUISVILLE, KY.
Rev: SEPT. 30-OCT. 1,2,3, / (Horse Head) / MAN O'WAR
C, 27x38, LGB, Nat'l, B

NC12 • 30

Boston, Mass.
1930-1931
Commander: Ralph T. O'Neill, Kansas

Obv: (Three Soldier, Marine, Sailor) PAUL REVERE'S RIDE / 12TH NATIONAL / BOSTON 1930 / CONVENTION / EMBLEM
Rev: NEW / ENGLAND / WELCOMES / YOU
ABz, 35x52, R., Nat'l, B





NC13 • 31
Detroit, Mich.
1931-1932
Commander: Henry L. Stevens, North Carolina
Obv: (Two Men Shaking Hands) AMERICAN LEGION / THIRTEENTH ANNUAL /CONVENTION / DETROIT / 1931
Rev: Blank
ABz, 37x48, LGB, Nat'l,

NC14 • 32
Portland, Ore.
1932-1933
Commander: Louis A. Johnson, West Virginia
Obv: 1932 / (SACAJAWEA & OREGON / SCARCE W/ BABY) (Emblem) / PORTLAND OREGON
Rev: Blank
ABz, 35x42, LBG, Nat'l, B

NC15 • 33
Chicago, Ill.
1933-1934
Commander: Edward A. Hayes, Illinois
Obv: CHICAGO / (Fort Indian) / 19 (Emblem) 33 /
Rev: Blank
ABz, 31x47, LGB, Nat'l, B

NC16 • 34
Miami, Fla.
1934-1935
Commander: Frank N. Belgrano, California
Obv: (Palm Trees — Sword Fish) / MIAMI 1934
Rev: Blank
ABz, 38x42, GD, LBGLR Sun Burst, None

NC17 • 35
St. Louis, Mo.
1935-1936
Commander: Ray Murphy, Iowa
Obv: (Cradle) IN HONOR OF THE / MEN WHO AT THE / SAINT LOUIS CAUCUS / MAY 1919 / FOUNDED THE / AMERICAN LEGION / 1919 (Emblem) 1935
Rev: 17TH NATIONAL / CONVENTION / SAINT LOUIS / MO. / SEPT. 23RD-26TH- / 1935
ABz, 34x48, W.H, Nat'l, None

NC18 • 36
Cleveland, Ohio
1936-1937
Commander: Harry W. Colmery, Kansas
Obv: 19 (Emblem) 36 / (City Scene) / CLEVELAND
Rev: ,PAST / NATIONAL COMMANDER / JOHN R. McQUIGG
ABz, 28x44, LGB, Nat'l, B

NC19 • 37
New York City
1937-1938
Commander: Daniel J. Doherty, Mass.
Obv: 19 / (Statue of Liberty) 37 / NEW YORK / Emblem
Rev: "UP FIFTH AVENUE AGAIN IN 1937!"
ABz, 31x46, JK, Nat'l, B

NC20 • 38
Los Angeles, Cal.
1938-1939
Commander: Stephen F. Chadwick, Washington
Obv: (Emblem) / 1938 / El Pueblo de Nuestra / Senora, La Reina De / LOS ANGELES
Rev: Blank
ABz, 31x48, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC21 • 39
Chicago, Ill.
1939-1940
Commander: Raymond J. Kelly, Michigan
Obv: GENERAL / PERSHING / (Bust) / 1939 / CHICAGO / (Emblem)
Rev: Blank
C, 35x50, GD, Nat'l, B

NC22 • 40
Boston, Mass.
1940-1941
Commander: Milo J. Warner, Ohio
Obv: (EAGLE) / (Bldgs) / BOS - (Emblem) TON / 1940 / (Man on Horse)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 34x48, L.G.B., Nat'l, B

NC23 • 41
Milwaukee, Wisc.
1941-1942
Commander: Lynn U. Stambaugh, North Dakota
Obv: (Eagle) / (Emblem) / MILWAUKEE / 1941
Rev: Blank
ABz, 38x55, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC24 • 42
Kansas City
1942-1943
Commander: Roane Waring, Tennessee
Obv: 24TH ANNUAL CONVENTION Emblem / KANASA CITY — 1942
Rev: Blank
Gold, 38x42, BB, Nat'l, None

NC25 • 43

Omaha, Neb.
1943-1944
Commander: Warren H. Atherton, California
Obv: AMERICAN LEGION / 25TH NATIONAL / CONVENTION / SEPTEMBER / STATE OF NEBRASKA / OMAHA / 19 (Emblem) 43
Rev: Blank
F, 33x46, GD, Nat'l, None

NC26 • 44

Chicago, Ill.
1944-1945
Commander: Edward N. Scheiberling, New York
Obv: CHICAGO WATER TOWER / NATIONAL / CONVENTION / SEPT. 18-19-20 / (Emblem) /1944
Rev: Blank
F Gold, 33x46, GD, Nat'l, None

NC27 • 45

Chicago, Ill.
1945-1946
Commander: John Stelle, Illinois
Obv: WELCOME HOME / (Men Shaking Hands) / CHICAGO / NOV. 18-21 / EMBLEM / 1945
Rev: Blank
C, 33x46, GD, Nat'l, B

NC28 • 46

San Francisco, Cal.
1946-1947
Commander: Paul H. Griffith, Pennsylvania
Obv: 28TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / 19 (Emblem) 46 / WAR MEMORIAL / SAN FRANCISCO
Rev: Blank
C, 39x30, GD, Nat'l, None

NC29 • 47

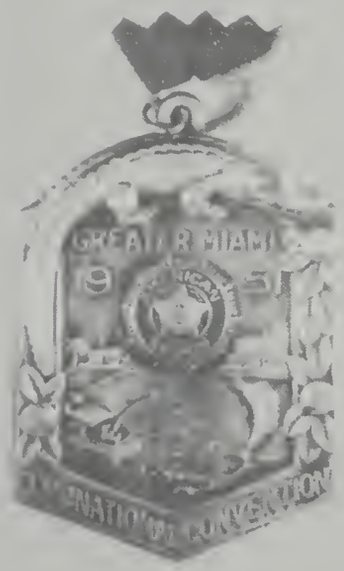
New York City
1947-1948
Commander: James F. O'Neill, New Hampshire
Obv: 19 (Emblem) 47 / (Statue of Liberty) / NEW YORK CITY
Rev: Blank
ABz, 32x44, LJB, Nat'l, B

NC30 • 48

Miami, Fla.
1948-1949
Commander: S. Perry Brown, Texas
Obv: (Emblem) / 30TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / (Swordfish) 19 / GREATER / MIAMI / 48
Rev: Blank
Abz, 32x50, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC31 • 49
Philadelphia, Pa.
1949-1950
Commander: George N. Craig, Indiana

Obv: 31ST NATIONAL / CONVENTION / 19 49 / (Emblem) On Liberty Bell) / PHILADELPHIA
Rev: Unknown
ABz, 33x42, BB, Nat'l, B



NC32 • 50
Los Angeles, Cal.
1950-1951
Commander: Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia

Obv: (Bear) 1950 / 32ND. NATIONAL CONVENTION / LOS ANGELES / (Emblem)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 30x50, R, Nat'l, B

NC33 • 51
Miami, Fla.
1951-1952
Commander: Donald R. Wilson, West Virginia

Obv: GREATER MIAMI / 19 (Emblem) 51 / 33RD NATIONAL CONVENTION
Rev: GREATER / MIAMI / MAP
A Color Bz, 34x48, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC34 • 52
New York City
1952-1953
Commander: Lewis K. Gough, California

Obv: EMBLEM / NEW YORK 1952 / 34TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
REV: NEW YORK / CITY / (Map) / 1952
A - Color Bz, 35x44, Ukn., Nat'l, None

NC35 • 53
St. Louis, Mo.
1953-1954
Commander: Arthur J. Connell, Connecticut

Obv: 1953 / (Emblem) / ST. LOUIS MISSOURI / 35TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
Rev: Blank
ABz, 33x48, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC36 • 54
Washington DC,
1954-1955
Commander: Seaborn P. Collins, New Mexico

Obv: (Capital) / (WASHINGTON BUST) / Emblem / 36TH / 1954 / NATIONAL CONVENTION / WASHINGTON, D.C.
Rev: Blank
ABz, 28x47, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC37 • 55
Miami, Fla.
1955-1956
Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
Obv: 37TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / 1955 / (Emblem) / GREATER / MIAMI
Rev: Blank
ABz, 40x50, Ukn., Nat'l, RWB-Flag, B-Flag

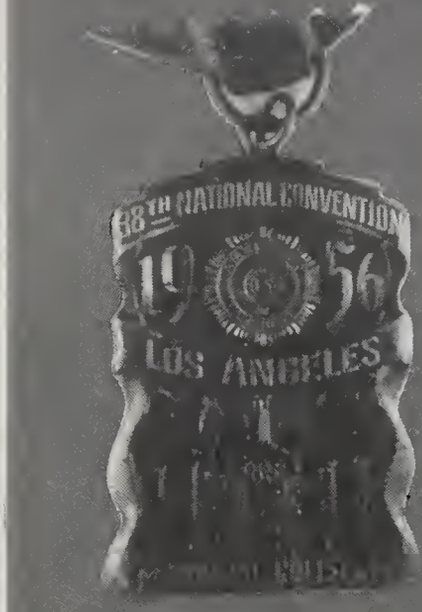
NC38 • 56
Los Angeles, Cal.
1956-1957
Commander: W.C. (Dan) Daniel, Virginia
Obv: 38TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / 19 (Emblem) 56 / LOS ANGELES / MEMORIAL COLISEUM
Rev: Blank
ABz, 31x48, Ukn., Nat'l, B

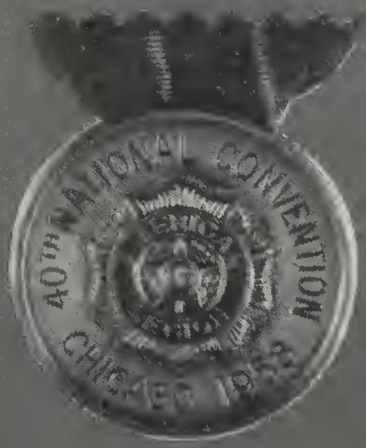
NC39 • 57
Atlantic City
1957-1958
Commander: John S. Gleason Jr., Illinois
Obv: 1957 / ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. / 39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / (Emblem) / SEPT / 16TH. / SEPT. / 19TH. (Scene)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 26x48, Ukn., Nat'l, None

NC40 • 58
Chicago, Ill.
1958-1959
Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
Obv: 40TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / (Emblem) / CHICAGO 1958
Rev: Blank
B, 35 R, GD., Nat'l, B

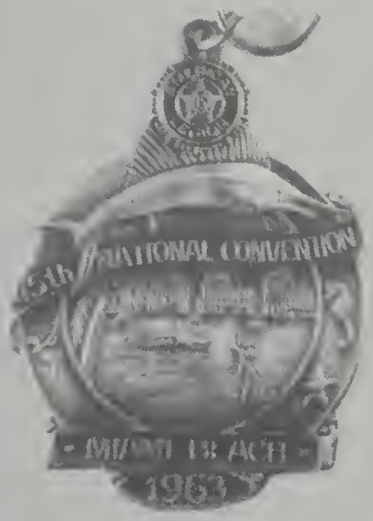
NC41 • 59
Minneapolis, Minn.
1959-1960
Commander: Martin B. McKneally, New York
Obv: 41ST / NATIONAL CONVENTION / (MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL / 1959 / (Emblem) (Scene)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 40x51, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC42 • 60
Miami Beach
1960-1961
Commander: William R. Burke, California
Obv: (Emblem) / NATIONAL 42ND CONVENTION / 1960 / MIAMI BEACH (Scene)
Rev: Blank
WM., 42x55, Ukn., Nat'l, B





NC43 • 61
Denver, Colo.
1961-1962
Commander: Charles L. Bacon, Missouri
Obv: (Emblem) / NATIONAL 43RD CONVENTION / DENVER 1961
Rev: Blank
ABz, 40x56, Ukn., Nat'l, B



NC45 • 63
Miami
1963-1964
Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Obv: (Emblem) / 45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / MIAMI BEACH / 1963 (Scene)
Rev: Blank
WM, 38x52, MA, Nat'l, B

NC47 • 65
Portland, Ore.
1965-1966
Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia
Obv: (Emblem) / PORTLAND, OREGON / 47TH NAT'L CONVENTION / ROSE QUEEN / 1965 (Scene)
Rev: Blank
B, 38x48, Ukn., Nat'l, None

NC44 • 62
Las Vegas, Nev.
1962-1963
Commander: James E. Powers, Georgia
Obv: (Emblem) / NATIONAL 44TH CONVENTION / LAS VEGAS / NEVADA / 1962 (Scene)
Rev: Blank
WM, 43x70, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC46 • 64
Dallas, Tex.
1964-1965
Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa
Obv: (Emblem) / 46 TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / DALLAS, TEXAS 1964 (Map) (Star - 2 Flags)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 38x46, Ukn., Nat'l, Blue

NC48 • 66
Washington, DC
1966-1967
Commander: John E. Davis, Washington, DC
Obv: (Emblem) / 38TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / WASHINGTON / D.C. / 1966 (Scene)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 36x46, Ukn., Nat'l, Blue

NC49 • 67

Boston, Mass.
1967-1968
Commander: William E. Galbraith, Kansas

Obv: (Emblem) / 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION / 1967 / BOSTON MASS. (Scene)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 37x46, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC50 • 68

New Orleans, La.
1968-1969
Commander: William C. Doyle, New Jersey

Obv: (Emblem) / (Scene) / 50TH NAT'L. CONVENTION / NEW ORLEANS / 1968
Rev: Blank
ABz, 37x47, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC51 • 69

Atlanta, Ga.
1969-1970
Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma

Obv: (Emblem) / (Scene) / 51ST NATIONAL CONVENTION / ATLANTA / 1969
Rev: Blank
ABz, 37x47, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC52 • 70

Portland, Ore.
1970-1971
Commander: Alfred P. Chamie, California

Obv: (Emblem) / 52ND NATIONAL CONVENTION / 1970 / 32 (Scene) '65 / PORTLAND OREGON
Rev: Blank
WM (Blackened), 40x52, Ukn., Nat'l, None

NC53 • 71

Houston, Texas
1971-1972
Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois

Obv: (Emblem) / 53RD / NATL. / CONVENTION / HOUSTON / 1971
Rev: Blank
ABz, 38x52, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC54 • 72

Chicago, Ill.
1972-1973
Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas

Obv: (Emblem) / 54TH / NATIONAL / CONVENTION / AUG. / 18-24 / 1972 / CHICAGO (Water Tower)
Rev: Unknown
ABz, 43x52, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC55 • 73

Honolulu, Haw.
1973-1974
Commander: Robert E.L. Eaton, Indiana
Obv: (Emblem) / 55TH NATIONAL / CONVENTION / AUG. / 17-23 / 1973 / HONOLULU / HAWAII
Rev: Blank
ABz, 45x57, Ukn., Nat'l, B

NC56 • 74

Miami Beach
1974-1975
Commander: James M. Wagonseller, Ohio
Obv: 56TH / NATIONAL CONVENTION / (Emblem) / (Map) / AUG. / 16-22 / 1974 / MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA
Rev: Blank
ABz, 41x 53, Ukn., Nat'l, B in map and emblem

NC57 • 75

Minneapolis, Minn.
1975-1976
Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Topeka, Kansas
Obv: 57TH / NATIONAL / CONVENTION / AUG. / 15-21 / 1975 / (Emblem) / MINNEAPOLIS, / MINNESOTA
Rev: Blank
A blue, 43x55, Ukn., Nat'l, B

DEPT. OF ILLINOIS

IL1 • 19

Peoria, Illinois
October 17-19, 1919
Temporary Chairman: George G Seaman,
Taylorville, Ill.

IL2 • 20

Chicago, Illinois
September 2-3, 1920
Commander: Milton J. Foreman,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: AMERICAN / US (In Star) / LEGION
Rev: Unknown
ABz-C, 34x34, DC, NAT'L, None

Substituted for Original

IL3 • 21

Decatur, Illinois
October 10-11, 1921
Commander: William R. McCauley,
Onley, Ill.

Obv: American Legion Emblem / 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS / DECATUR, / OCT. 10 & 11. / 1921
Rev: Blank
ABz, 31x50, DC, RWB, None

IL4 • 22

Rock Island, Illinois
September 25-26, 1922
Commander: William R. McCauley,
Onley, Ill.

Obv: Emblem / (Statue of Liberty on Shield)
Rev: Blank
C, 32x45, Ukn., RWB, None

IL5 • 23

Danville, Illinois
September 17-18, 1923
Commander: Charles W. Schick,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: Flag / (Emblem on Shield)
Rev: Blank
C, 38x43, Ukn., RWB, RWB in flag, B in Emblem

IL6 • 24

Champaign, Illinois
September 1-2, 1924
Commander: J.J. Bullington,
Belleville, Ill.

Obv: Emblem on Maltese Cross
Rev: Blank
B, 28x37, Ukn., RWB, B in Emblem

IL7 • 25

Quincy, Illinois
August 31-Sept. 1, 1925
Commander: Howard P. Savage, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: AMERICAN LEGION. DEPT / 19 / (Emblem) / 25 / QUINCY, ILLINOIS
Rev: Blank
WM, 23x44, R., RWB, None

IL8 • 26

Springfield, Illinois
September 12-15, 1926
Commander: Scott W. Lucas, Havana, Ill.

Obv: Emblem on helmet
Rev: Blank
C, 30x35, W.H., RWB, None

IL7 • 27

Joliet, Illinois
August 29-30, 1927
Commander: Ferre C. Watkins, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: Emblem on canteen
Rev: Blank
B, 28x46, GD, Nat'l, None

IL10 • 28

Waukegan, Illinois
September 10-11, 1928
Commander: A.M. Carter, Marion, Ill.

Obv: Emblem on mess kit
Rev: Blank
B, 26x46, GC, RWB, None

IL11 • 29

Rock Island, Illinois
September 16-17, 1929
Commander: David Shillinglaw, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: Rock (Emblem) ISLAND / 1929 on airplane
Rev: Blank
B, 38x40, GD, RWB, None

IL12 • 30

Aurora, Illinois
September 8-9, 1930
Commander: Edward A. Hayes, Decatur, Ill.

Obv: (3 Servicemen in Wreath) / (Emblem on state outline)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 26x52, GD, RWB, Blue in emblem

IL13 • 31
Peoria, Illinois
August 31-Sept 1, 1931
Commander: Arthur G. Poorman,
Chicago Heights, Ill.
Obv: 13TH ANNUAL / CONVENTION / (Emblem) / PEDRIA, 1931 / AUG. 31, SEPT. 1.
Rev: Blank Octagonal shape
C, 26x34, GD, RWB, Blue

IL14 • 32
Danville, Illinois
August 15-16, 1932
Commander: Ivan A. Elliott,
Carmi, Ill.
Obv: (Eagle) / ILLINOIS / 1732 (Bust of Washington) 1932 / 14th ANNUAL / crossed rifles AVG. 15-16 / STATE / CONVENTION / DANVILLE (Emblems)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 32x42, Ukn., RWB, None

IL15 • 33
Rockford, Illinois
August 28-29, 1933
Commander: James P. Ringley,
Chicago, Ill.
Obv: 1933 / 15TH ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS / AUG. / 28 / TO / 29 / (Emblem) Draped female / ROCKFORD:
Rev: Blank
ABz, 28x38, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL16 • 34
Peoria, Illinois
September 3-4, 1934
Commander: Charles C. Kapschull,
Deerfield, Ill.
Obv: PEORIA / (3 Men in circle) / 1934 / (Memorial Statue) (Emblem) / 16th ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS
Rev: Blank
ABz, 33x42, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL17 • 35
Quincy, Illinois
August 26-27, 1935
Commander: Paul Armstrong,
Chicago, Ill.
Obv: Emblem / QUINCY 17th / ANNUAL / AUGUST CONV. / 26-27 / (Civilian-Soldier) / Dept. of / ILL. / WE / SERVE NOW / AS WE SERVED THEN / 1935
Rev: Blank
Abz, 33x45 Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL18 • 36
Danville, Illinois
August 22-25, 1936
Commander: J.B. Murphy,
Bloomington, Ill.
Obv: AUG. 1936 / Emblem / Memorial Soldier Nurse / DEPARTMENT OF / ILLINOIS
Rev: Blank
ABz, 34x46, GD, Nat'l, None

IL19 • 37

Springfield, Illinois August 30-31, 1937
Commander: Matthew J. Murphy, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: SPRINGFIELD / AUG. / 30-31 / 1937 / (Emblem) / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS /LINCOLN TOMB / THE ARLINGTON OF THE WEST / 19th ANNUAL / CONVENTION

Rev: Mathew J. Murphy / Chicago / Dept. Commander

ABz, 32x50, Ukn., Nat'l., None

IL20 • 38

Rockford, Illinois August 21-23, 1938
Commander: Leonard Applequist, Aurora, Ill.

Obv: (Emblem) / ROCKFORD / 20TH ANNUAL CONVENTION / DEPT OF ILLINOIS / AUG.-21-22-23-1938 / (Log Bldg) THE HOME OF / CAMP GRANT

Rev: Blank

ABz, 37x58, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL21 • 39

Peoria, Illinois August 20-22, 1939
Commander: Edward Clamage, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / (Emblem) / 40/8 (in heart - Peoria / the heart / of Illinois) / 8/40 / Aux, Emblem / AUG. 19-22 / Sons of Legion Emblem / 1939 / 21ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

Rev: Blank

ABz, 37x41, Ukn., Nat'l, white in Emblem, and 8/40: Red, Heart

IL22 • 40

Danville, Illinois August 25-27, 1940
Commander: L.N. Bittinger, Onarga, Ill.

Obv: BUST / 1940 / CURTIS G. REDDEN /DANVILLE /(Emblem)

Rev: Dept. of / Illinois

ABz, 35x50, GD, Nat'l, None

IL23 • 41

Springfield, Illinois August 23-25, 1941
Commander: William Waugh, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS / SPRINGFIELD / AUGUST / 22-25 / 1941 / 23RD ANNUAL / (Emblem) / CONVENTION

Rev: Blank

ABz, 55x51, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL24 • 42

Peoria, Illinois August 21-24, 1942
Commander: N. Curtis Cation Peoria, Ill.

Obv: DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / emblem / 40/8 8/40 /(Auxiliary emblem) / Indian / (Sons of Legion Emblem) / 24th ANNUAL CONV. / PEORIA — AUG. 21-24, 1942

Rev: N. CURTIS CATION / DEPARTMENT COMMANDER / "PEORIA'S OWN" /

ABz, 37x41, Ukn., Nat'l, Light Blue Lavender feather.

IL25 • 43
Chicago, Illinois
August 28-30-, 1943
Commander: Francis E. Phelan, Einnetka, Ill.
Obv: 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION / (Emblem) /DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / CHICAGO / AUG. 28, 29, 30 / 1943
Rev: Blank
P, 41x45, BB, Red, None

IL26 • 44
Springfield, Illinois
August 25-28, 1944
Commander: Leonard W. Espert, Sprinfield, Ill.
Obv: SPRINGFIELD / ILLINOIS / AUGUST / 25-26-27-28 / Lincoln Memorial / Emblem
Rev: Blank
F, 27 & 46, GD, Nat'l, None

IL27 • 45
Chicago, Illinois
August 25-27, 1945
Commander: Arthur E. Canty, Chicago, Ill.
Obv: 27th / ILLINOIS TOKEN CONVENTION /(Emblem) / 1945 (Crossed Rifles on Shield)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 38x42, GD, Nat'l, None

IL28 • 46
Chicago, Illinois
August 16-19, 1946
Commander: Omar J. McMackin, Salem, Ill.
Obv: (WAR SCENES) / 1946 / ILLINOIS STATE AUG 16-19 CONVENTION CHICAGO / (Emblem)
Rev: Blank
ABz, 35x50, GD, Nat'l, None

IL29 • 47
Chicago, Illinois
August 15-18, 1947
Commander: William P. Kleuskens, Chicago, Ill.
Obv: CHICAGO / ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION / (Soldiers Holding Rifles) FREEDOM / DEMOCRACY / LOYALTY / JUSTICE / 19 (Emblem) 47
Rev: Blank
C, 33x48, GD, Nat'l, None

IL30 • 48
Chicago, Illinois
September 10-13, 1948
Commander: Douglass D. Getchell, Grayslake, Ill.
Obv: SEPT. 10-13 / 19 (Tower) 48 / CHICAGO / ILLINOIS CONVENTION / Emblem
Rev: Blank
B, 35x50, GD, Nat'l, None

IL31 • 49
Chicago, Illinois
August 5-8, 1949
Commander: William G. Burns,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: AUG. 5-6-7-8 / 1949 / CHICAGO / (Man- Woman - Child) / AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF ILL /(Emblem)
Rev: FOR / GOD AND COUNTRY / (Church-US Map) 30 YEARS OF SERVICE / 1919-1949
B & Bz, 31 R, GD, Nat'l., None

IL32 • 50
Chicago, Illinois
September 8-11, 1950
Commander: Merle E. Schaad,
Princeville, Ill.

Obv: Emblem
Rev: 32ND / ANNUAL CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / SEPT. 8-11 / 1950 / CHICAGO
B, 38x38 RAYS, Ukn., Nat'l., None

IL33 • 51
Chicago, Illinois
September 6-9, 1951
Commander: Lawrence J. Fenlon,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / ARSENAL / FOR / NATIONAL / DEFENSE / 1951 / (Emblem) / Various implements of war.
Rev: 33RD / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / SEPT. 6-9 / 1951 / CHICAGO
B, 22x48, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL34 • 52
Chicago, Illinois
July 31-August 1-3, 1952
Commander: Charles C. Shaw,
Paxton, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / (Emblem) / 1952
Rev: 34TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / JULY 31ST - AUG. 1-2-3, 1952 / CHICAGO
B, 27 R, LJI, Nat'l., None

IL35 • 53
Chicago, Illinois
August 6-9, 1953
Commander: F. Brautigam,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / 1953 / (Emblem) / 1917--19 (Red) / 1941-45 (White) / 1950 (Blue) / SOLDIER / ILLINOIS (On Cap) / FOR GOD / AND COUNTRY
Rev: 35TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / AUGUST 6-7-8-9, / 1953 / CHICAGO
B, 31x43, Ukn., Nat'l., RWB

IL36 • 54

Chicago, Illinois
August 5-8, 1954
Commander: Edward Driemeyer, Herrin, Ill.

Obv: WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE / WITH CHARITY FOR ALL / Lincoln / (Emblem) / 1954 / ILLINOIS / LAND OF / LINCOLN

Rev: 36TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / AUGUST 5-6-7-8, / 1954 / CHICAGO

B, 35x42, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL37 • 1955

Springfield, Illinois
September 1-4, 1955
Commander: Irving Breakstone, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: 37TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / SPRINGFIELD / SEPT. 1-2-3-4 1955 / (Lincoln's Tomb) / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / (Emblem)

Rev: Blank

ABz, 29x56, BB, Nat'l, None

IL38 • 56

Chicago, Illinois
August 2-5, 1956
Commander: Albert W. Leonhard, DeKalb, Ill.

Obv: (City of Chicago Seal) / ILLINOIS / EMBLEM / 1956

Rev: 38TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / AUGUST 2-3-4-5 / 1956 / CHICAGO

ABz, L.C. "Z", 38x42, LJI, Nat'l, None

IL39 • 57

Chicago, Illinois
August 1-4, 1957
Commander: Harold A. Cummins, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: (Fort) / (Emblem) / ILLINOIS 1957

Rev: 39TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / AMERICAN LEGION / AUGUST 1-2-3-4, / 1957 / CHICAGO

B, 31x48, LJI., Nat'l., None

IL40 • 58

Chicago, Illinois
July 31-August 1-3, 1958
Commander: Anthony Badamo, Quincy, Ill.

Obv: CHICAGO / (Emblem) / ILLINOIS / 1958

Rev: 40TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / THE AMERICAN LEGION / JULY 31, AUG. 1,2,3, / 1958 / CHICAGO, ILL.

B, 32x41, Ukn., Nat'l., None

IL41 • 59
Springfield, Illinois
July 30-August 2, 1959
Commander: Al Keller, Jr.,
Kankakee, Ill.
Obv: 1959 / (Emblem) / STATE CAPITOL
Rev: 41ST / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / THE AMERICAN LEGION / JULY 30, 31, AUG. 1, 2 / SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
B, 35x40, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL42 • 60
Chicago, Illinois
August 18-21, 1960
Commander: John H. Geiger,
Park Ridge, Ill.
Obv: (FORT) Emblem / ILLINOIS 1960
Rev: 42ND / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / THE / AMERICAN LEGION / AUGUST / 18, 19, 20, 21, / 1960 / CHICAGO
B, 31x48, LJI, Nat'l, None

IL43 • 61
Chicago, Illinois
July 26-30, 1961
Commander: Clarence Brooks,
Carmi, Ill.
Obv: (Emblem) / 43RD / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / THE / AMERICAN / LEGION / JULY 27-30 / 1961 / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS CHICAGO
Rev: Blank
A, 36x35, GD, Nat'l, None

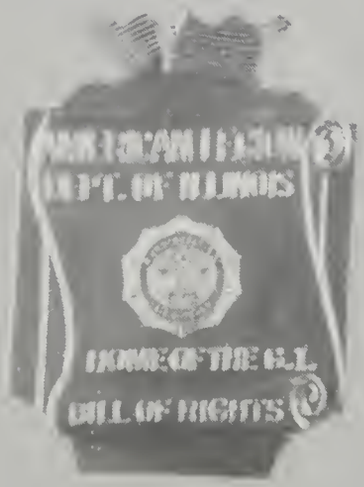
IL44 • 62
Chicago, Illinois
July 31-August 5, 1962
Commander: Karl Yost,
Morrison, Ill.
Obv: ILLINOIS / EARTH / ORBIT / 1962 / (Armament Soldier) (Emblem)
Rev: 44TH / ANNUAL / STATE / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / THE AMERICAN / LEGION / AUG. 1-5 / 1962 / CHICAGO
B, 22x49, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL45 • 63
Chicago, Illinois
July 30-August 4, 1963
Commander: Eric H. Smith,
Broadview, Ill.
Obv: (Emblem) / 45TH CONVENTION / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS / 1963
Rev: 45TH ANNUAL / STATE CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / THE AMERICAN LEGION / JULY 30-AUG 4 / 1963 / CHICAGO / ILLINOIS
A gold, 43x70, Ukn., Nat'l, None
NOTE: Same design as National Medal 44 • 1962

IL46 • 64

Chicago, Illinois
July 28-August 2, 1964
Commander: Morris "Bob" Nooner, Plymouth, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / LAND OF LINCOLN / Eagle / (Emblem) / 1964
Rev: 46TH / ANNUAL / STATE / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF / ILLINOIS / THE AMERICAN LEGION / JULY 28-AUG. 2, / 1964 / CHICAGO
A gold, 31x43, Ukn., Nat'l., None



IL47 • 65

Chicago, Illinois
July 20-25, 1965
Commander: James O. Finks, Shelbyville, Ill.

Obv: AMERICAN LEGION / DEPT. OF ILLINOIS / (Emblem) / HOME OF THE G.I. / BILL OF RIGHTS
Rev: HONORS THE / FOUNDING COMMITTEE / J. RINGLEY / J. STEELE / E. MERRITT / A. STARSHAK / L. ESPER / O. McMACKIN / W. McCAULEY / G. BAUER / 47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION / CHICAGO / JULY 20-25, 1965
A gold, 35x45, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL48 • 66

Chicago, Illinois
July 26-31, 1966
Commander: Joseph C. Murphy, Chicago, Ill.

Obv: (Emblem) / (Flag)
Rev: 48TH / ANNUAL / STATE CONVENTION / JULY 26-31, 1966-CHICAGO / THE AMERICAN LEGION / DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS / OPERATION / SHOW YOUR COLORS / SUPPORTS / OUR ARMED FORCES IN / VIET NAM
A, 40x43, Ukn., Nat'l., Flag RWB

IL49 • 67

Chicago, Illinois
July 25-30, 1967
Commander: Frederick E. Merritt, Salem, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / PARTNERS / IN / LAW & ORDER (Justice) / (Emblem)
Rev: 49TH / ANNUAL / CONVENTION / DEPT. OF ILL. / THE AMERICAN LEGION / SUPPORTS / ALL LAW / ENFORCEMENT / OFFICERS /JULY 25TH-30TH 1967 / CHICAGO
A, 26x55, Ukn., Nat'l, None

IL50 • 68

Chicago, Illinois
July 23-28, 1968
Commander: Russell P. Bieritz,
Geneva, Ill.

Obv: (Eagle) / (Emblem) / GOLDEN "50"

Rev: 50TH / ANNIVERSARY / CONVENTION / JULY 23-28 / 1968 / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

B gold, 64x44, Ukn., White, None

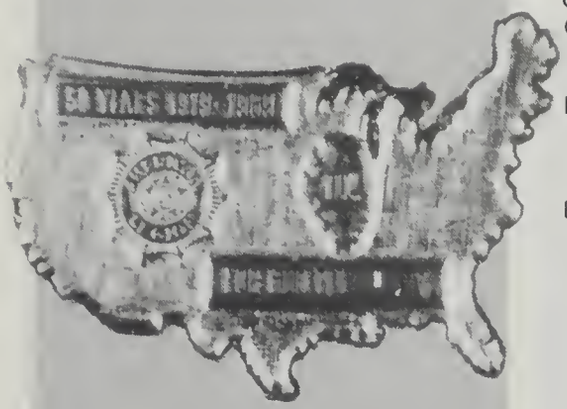
IL51 • 69

Chicago, Illinois
July 22-27, 1969
Commander: Albert J. Swiderski,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: 50 YEARS 1919-1969 / (Emblem) / Ill. Map in Blue / FOR GOD & COUNTRY

Rev: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS / 51ST ANNUAL DEPT. / CONVENTION / JULY 22-27, 1969

B, 55x34, Ukn., RWB, Map in Blue



IL52 • 70

Chicago, Illinois
July 21-26, 1970
Commander: Stanley Kennedy,
Toluca, Ill.

Obv: ILLINOIS / (Emblem) 1970 / USA / UNITY and SERVICE for AMERICA

Rev: 52ND / ANNUAL DEPT. CONVENTION / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS / JULY 21-26, 1970

B, 42x36, Ukn, RWB, RWB

IL53 • 71

Chicago, Illinois
July 27-August 1, 1971
Commander: Richard I Nicholes,
Danville, Ill.

Obv: (Emblem) / REACH OUT / (Statue of Liberty) THE AMERICAN LEGION

Rev: 53RD / DEPARTMENT / CONVENTION / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS / JULY 25-AUG. 1 / 1971

B, 31x42, Ukn., RWB, Blue

IL54 • 72

Chicago, Illinois
July 12-16, 1972
Commander: Edward A. Schalk,
Chicago, Ill.

Obv: ACTION / and / SERVICE / Hands shaking, lightning bolt 1972 / (Emblem)

Rev: 54TH / DEPARTMENT / CONVENTION / CHICAGO / ILLINOIS / JULY 11-16 / 1972

B, 30x48, Ukn., RWB, Blue

IL55 • 73

Chicago, Illinois
July 17-22, 1973
Commander: Ralph C. Scott,
Carlyle, Illinois

Obv: SERVICE / GOD (Bible) / (Flag) 1973 / COUNTRY / (Emblem)

Rev: 55th / DEPARTMENT / CONVENTION / CHICAGO / ILLINOIS / JULY 17-22 / 1973

B, 30x48, Ukn., RWB, Blue

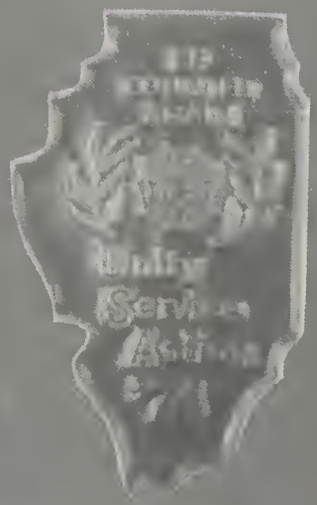
IL56 • 74

Chicago, Illinois
July 17-21, 1974
Commander: Ralph J. Coop,
Minooka, Illinois

Obv: BE / COUNTED / AGAIN / (Emblem) Wreath / Unity / Service / Action / '74

Rev: 56TH / DEPARTMENT / CONVENTION / CHICAGO / ILLINOIS / JULY 17, 21 / 1974

B, 30x48, Ukn., RWB, Blue



IL57 • 75

Chicago, Illinois
July 16-20, 1975
Commander: John B. Mahoney,
Chicago, Illinois

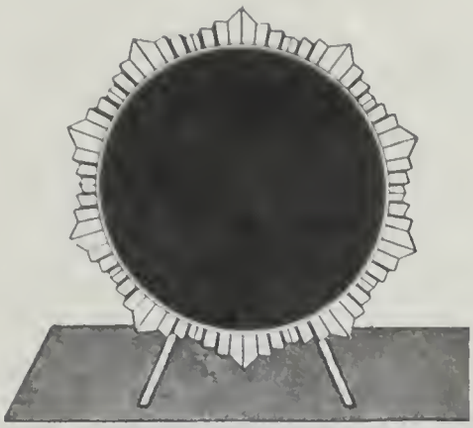
Obv: 1975 / (Flag) / AMERICAN NOW / Be Counted / Again / (Emblem)

Rev: 57TH / DEPARTMENT / CONVENTION / CHICAGO, / ILLINOIS / JULY 16-20, / 1975

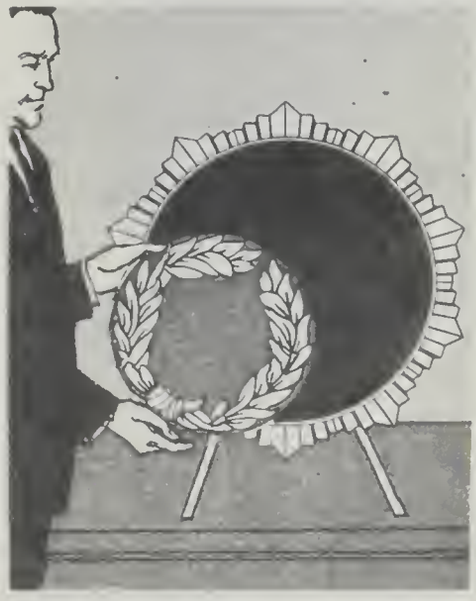
B, 26x40, Ukn., RWB, Blue

The Meaning of The American Legion Emblem

Reprinted from the American Legion Magazine



1. THE RAYS OF THE SUN form the background of our proud Emblem, and suggest that the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.



2. THE WREATH forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States, that Liberty might endure.

3. THE STAR, victory symbol of WW I, signalizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters U.S. leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's sky.

Every part of the American Legion Emblem has a meaning, a rich symbolism that a glance does not reveal.

The Emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun, giver of life, warmth and courage; foe of the cold, of the darkness, of fear, or apprehension.

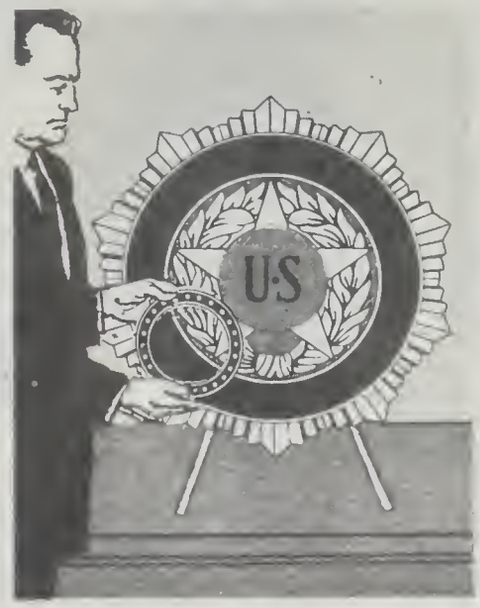
In turn, each of the Emblem's many parts signified a meaning which no American Legionnaire who wears the Emblem should take lightly, and which he should know from the first moment that he puts his Emblem on.

Why does the star signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars are fixed in the heavens, while the planets, the moon and the sun wander. As the stars do not wander, so should The American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes.

Here, in pictures, the meanings of all the symbols of The American Legion Emblem are indicated.

The Emblem is fully copyrighted, patented and protected by federal law and cannot be used without permission of the National Organization.

4. TWO LARGE RINGS. The outer one stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled buddies. The inner one denotes the welfare of America's children.



5. TWO SMALL RINGS set upon the star. The outer pledges loyalty and Americanism. The inner is for service to our communities, our states and the nation.

6. The words AMERICAN LEGION tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, rehabilitation, child welfare, loyalty, Americanism.

40/8 Society

The fun making branch of the American Legion was known as the 40 x 8 Organization. La Societe des 40 hommes et 8 Chevaux (40 men and 8 horses) was established in the 1920's.

In 1960 the Legion severed its relationship with this organization.

Shown are but a few of the badges issued by the 40/8.

OBV: 19 . . . (Equestrian figure) 35 / 16TH PROMENADE / NATIONALE
REV: Blank
ABzm, 37 x 50 WH Co. B

OBV: CLEVELAND / (Emblem Superimposed on soldier superimposed on American flag / 1936
REV: Blank
ABz, 24 x 48, FHN Co. / B

OBV: 40/8 Emblem
REV: Blank
RIBBON INSCRIPTION: GRAND VOITURE d'ILLINOIS PEORIA 1931
B, 52 x 26, B

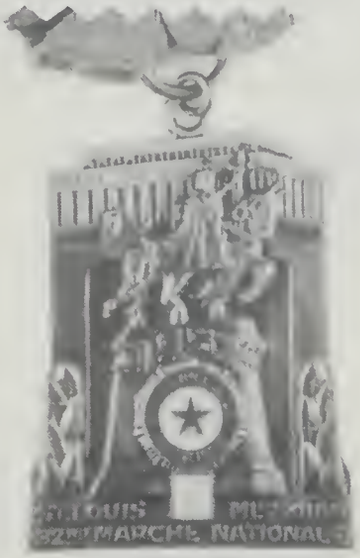
OBV: 40 Hommes / House, horse, palm tree / 8 CHEVAUX / FIFTEENTH PROMENADE NATIONALE
REV: Blank
ABz, 38 x 43, GDCo., B. Ribbon

Same as National Convention Medal NC 32 • 50 except for 40/8 emblem

OBV: Emblem
REV: Blank
Z and Plastic, 33R, WH Co., B. Ribbon

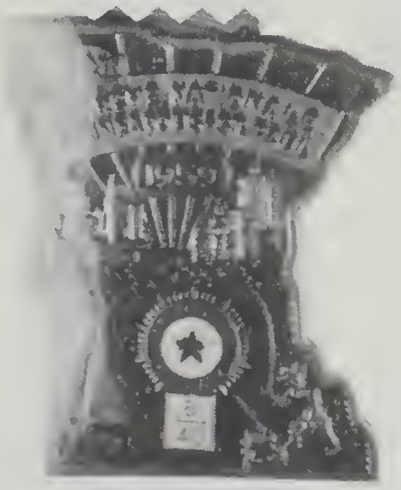
40/8 Auxiliary

OBV: 11TH ANNUAL MARCHE NATIONALE / CHICAGO / OCT. 2-5 1933
REV: Blank
ABz, 26 x 38, RW Ribbon



OBV: The inscription: TO OUR SOLDIER DEAD appears on the top edge of the building / (Emblem) / ST. LOUIS MISSOURI / 32ND MARCHE NATIONALE
REV: Blank
ABz, 33 x 48, R Ribbon

OBV: EMBLEMS / AURORA (Emblem) 1930
REV: Blank
Bz, 40 x 40, GDCo, Red



Same as National Convention Medal NC41•59 except for 8/40 emblem

Same as National Convention Medal NC32•50 except for 8/40 emblem

American Legion Auxiliary

The Legion also has its auxiliary for women who are interested in the organization and its programs. Eligible are wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of Legion members; wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of men and women who died in WWI, WWII, the Korean War or the Vietnam War (or after they were honorably discharged), and women who are eligible for Legion membership. The auxiliary has more than 900,000 members in about 13,000 local units.

Ladies Auxiliary pinback having 4 jewels mounted on the face. B, 19 x 18

Medals issued for the Ladies Auxiliary were identical to Legion medals except the Auxiliary emblem was used.

Miscellaneous

OBV: Monument/Emblem/14th/ANNUAL/CONV./DEPT. OF ILLINOIS/DANVILLE, 1932
REV: Blank
ABZ, 26x43, WHCo, NAT'L

OBV: Woman holding scroll which has the following inscription: 1917 / 1918 / 1941 / 1945 / KOREA / 1950
REV: Blank
B, 31 R, WHCo / NAT'L

OBV: Drummers / AUG. 1-5 / VICTORY CONVENTION / 1946 - RACINE, WISC.
REV: Blank
ABz, 35 x 45, GDCo, Multi-color, RWB Enamel

OBV: CLEVELAND / SEPT 21-24 / 17th PROMENADE / NATIONALE on ribbon / 1936
REV: CHEF DE CHEMIN DE FER PASSE / JOHN A. ELDEN
ABz, 32 x 38, B Ribbon

ILLINOIS AT BOSTON, 1930
12th ANNUAL CONVENTION

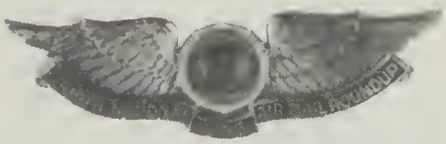
OBV: SERVICE COMMITTEE / (Emblem) / 1610
REV: Blank
B, 56, GD Co.

OBV: Eagle on Shield / SERVICE COMMITTEE / (Emblem) / 245 / CHICAGO, ILL. 1933
REV: Blank
B, 55 x 60

OBV: NATIONAL / CONVENTION / VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I / U.S.A. / (Emblem) SPRINGFIELD, ILL. / SEPTEMBER 14-17 / 1958
REV: Blank
ABz, 28 x 53, Multi-Color, R. Ribbon

OBV: HOME OF / LINCOLN / (Building, Bust of Lincoln, Emblem) / 1930
REV: Blank
ABz, 41 x 41, GDCo., RWB

OBV: DEPARTMENT / OF / NEW YORK
REV: NIAGARA FALLS / SEPT 9 • 10 • 11 / 1926
Abz, 38 x 58



OBV: FOURTH NATIONAL / 1945 / AIR MAIL ROUNDUP
REV: Blank
Silver, 44 x 13, R Enamel

OBV: Around outside NATIONAL CONVENTION / COMMITTEE Center: 1917-1927 / Emblem superimposed on crossed French and American Flag / G.D. Crawford
REV: Blank
B, 52R

CHICAGO, ILL 1939
OBV: Emblem
REV: Blank
B, 18 x 32, NAT'L

OBV: AMERICAN ARMY OF LIBERATION / Doughboy / I DID / RIGHT MAKES MIGHT
REV: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / (Eagle) / SERVICE / DID YOU? / 1914 / 1919 / WORLD WAR
C, 32R

OBV: Eagle with emblem emblazened on chest / 50th / ANNIVERSARY
REV: FIFTY YEARS / FOR / GOD / AND / COUNTRY / 1919-1969
B, 34R